

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): An alloy endowed with high-temperature mechanical strength in an oxidizing medium, ~~said alloy being free of molybdenum and/or tungsten and~~ comprising a chromium-containing matrix strengthened by precipitation of carbides, wherein said alloy comprises carbides of at least one metal (M) selected from the group consisting of titanium [[,]] and zirconium and hafnium, said carbides optionally further containing comprising tantalum (M'), wherein the alloy consists essentially of the following elements (the proportions being indicated in percentages by weight of the alloy):

Cr	23 to 34%;
Ni	6 to 12%;
M = Zr or Ti	0.2 to 7%;
M' = Ta	0 to 7%;
C	0.2 to 1.2%;
Fe	less than 3%;
Si	less than 1%;
Mn	less than 0.5%,

the balance consisting of cobalt and inevitable impurities.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises at least 0.2% carbon by weight.

4. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises the metal M, and optionally M', in a metal/carbon molar ratio (M+M')/C of around 0.9 to 2.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises 0.2 to 5% titanium by weight.

7. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises 0.2 to 5% zirconium by weight.

8-9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tantalum content is about 1 to 7%.

11. (Withdrawn): An article for the hot smelting or conversion of glass, made of an alloy as claimed in claim 1.

12. (Withdrawn): The article as claimed in claim 11, which has undergone a forging operation after the alloy has been cast.

13. (Withdrawn): The article as claimed in claim 11, which consists of a fiberizing spinner for the manufacture of mineral wool.

14. (Withdrawn): A process for manufacturing an article as claimed in claim 11, comprising the casting of the molten alloy in a suitable mold.

15. (Withdrawn): A process for manufacturing mineral wool by internal centrifugation, in which a stream of molten mineral material is poured into a fiberizing spinner, the peripheral band of which is pierced by a multitude of orifices via which filaments of molten mineral material escape that are then attenuated through the action of a gas into wool, wherein the temperature of the mineral material in the spinner is at least 1200°C and the fiberizing spinner is made of a cobalt-based alloy as claimed in claim 1.

16. (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the molten mineral material has a liquidus temperature of around 1130°C or higher.

17. (New): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises at least 0.6% carbon by weight.

18. (New): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises the metal M, and optionally M', in a metal/carbon molar ratio $(M+M')/C$ of around 0.9 to 1.5.

19. (New): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises 0.4 to 5% titanium by weight.

20. (New): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, which comprises 0.4 to 3% zirconium by weight.

21. (New): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tantalum content is about 2 to 6%.